

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write on behalf of thousands of Americans who have documented health problems related to the collapse of the World Trade Center towers on September 11, 2001. We are concerned that many of those who are sick or injured as a result of the 9/11 attacks are not receiving the help they need.

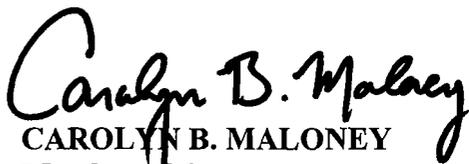
As you may know, tens of thousands of first responders, government employees and lower Manhattan residents and workers are suffering from illnesses related to their exposure to a variety of toxins at or near the World Trade Center site. Many of these individuals lack health insurance, have not had access to proper health monitoring or treatment and have had significant difficulty obtaining workers' compensation benefits. The recent appointment of the Director of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Dr. John Howard, as the federal coordinator of 9/11 health issues is a promising step forward, but much more work remains.

We believe that we are in the middle of a gathering health crisis. Doctors at the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program report that each month, more and more Ground Zero responders are seeking treatment for the first time and that the illnesses of responders already in treatment are proving to be unexpectedly severe and persistent. Most ominously, at least three but perhaps dozens more 9/11 responders have died as a direct result of illnesses that in all likelihood were sustained at Ground Zero.

We respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss how the federal government may be able to better address the health-related needs of the "heroes of 9/11" and the community. At this meeting we would like to bring several Ground Zero responders so that you can hear their stories firsthand.

Once again, we thank you for your support of New York City and for your pledge to do whatever it takes to help our community recover from the terrorist attacks. We look forward to meeting with you soon.

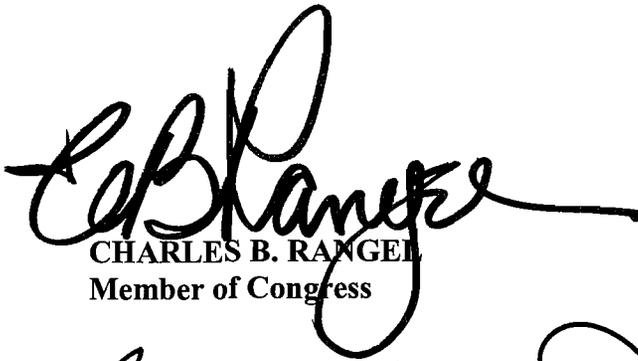
Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

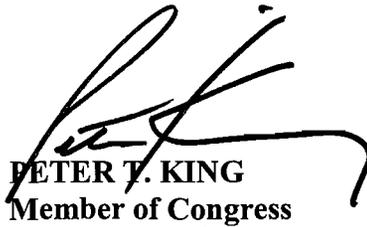

VITO FOSSELLA
Member of Congress


CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator

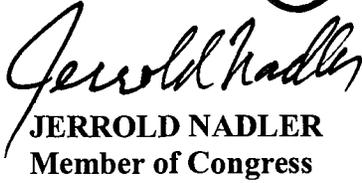

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
United States Senator



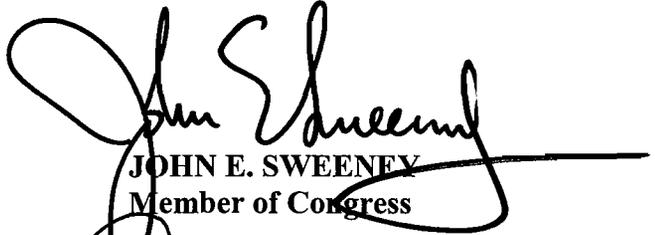
CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



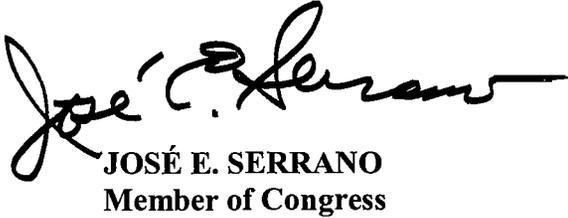
PETER T. KING
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JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



JOHN E. SWEENEY
Member of Congress



JOSÉ E. SERRANO
Member of Congress



SHERWOOD BOEHLERT
Member of Congress



MAJOR R. OWENS
Member of Congress



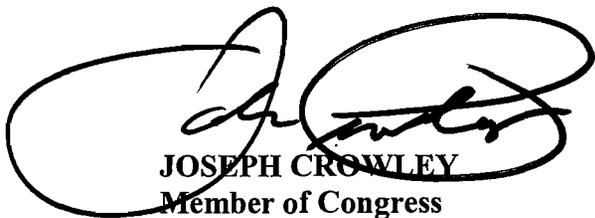
SUE W. KELLY
Member of Congress



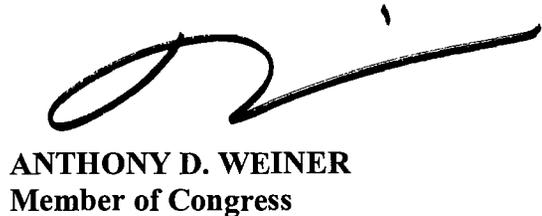
GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress



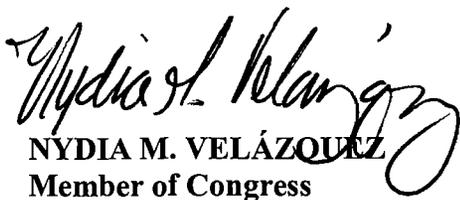
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NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
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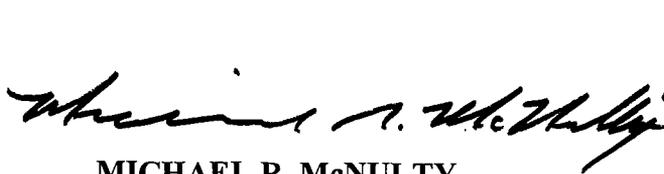
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EDOLPHUS TOWNS
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STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress



TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
Member of Congress



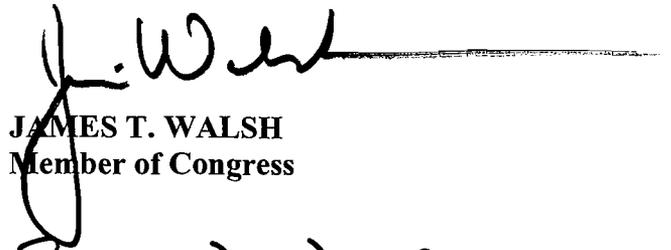
BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress



GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress



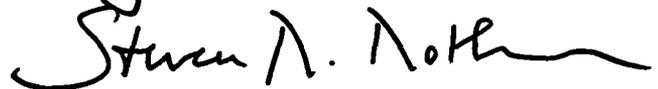
LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress



JAMES T. WALSH
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress



STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
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BILL PASCRELL, JR.
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ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator